to keep down prices due to rising inflation and Prime Minister, in a communication to all Chief Ministers, asked to place a mechanism to monitor commodity prices which in turn greatly affect wages and the cost of consumer goods;

(b) whether sensitive commodities like pulses, edible oils, wheat and milk have all been hit;

(c) if so, what are the other main points referred by the Prime Minister in his letter; and

(d) to what extent the State Governments have taken steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has requested the State Governments to take all necessary steps to keep inflation under control. In a letter dated 21st February, 2007 the Prime Minister has appealed to this effect to all the Chief Ministers. The letter makes specific mention to curb speculation in some of the commodities, especially pulses. It also exhorts the State Governments to take necessary steps to curb malpractices, profiteering and hoarding and ensure efficient functioning of the Public Distribution System. The State Governments have been requested to approach the special monitoring cell setup in the Cabinet Secretariat for any issues requiring quick resolution and for removing any bottlenecks in the availability of essential commodities. The letter also outlines the various fiscal, administrative and supply side augmentation measures that have been taken by the Central Government in the recent past.

(d) The State Governments have been taking various steps to keep inflation under check. Some State Governments, in pursuance of the authorisation given by the Central Government *vide* Notifications dated August 29, 2006 (and subsequent extensions to this notification), have already passed Control Orders with respect to wheat and pulses.

Loans fixed for aricultural sector

†3582. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any percentage of the total loan to be provided for agricultural works by the banks has been fixed;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the percentage fixed;

(c) the actual status in this regard;

(d) what is Government's policy in this regard; and

(e) the amount of loan provided by different banks to different States for agricultural works during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India policy stipulate a target of 40% of Adjusted Net Bank Credit or credit equivalent amount of off balance sheet exposure of the bank outstanding as on March 31 of the previous year for lending to priority sector by scheduled commercial banks. Within this overall target, a sub-target of 18% has been prescribed for agricultural purposes.

(c) and (d) Though the credit flow to agriculture has doubled in two yeas since 2003-04, the total agriculture advances by the public sector banks as on last Friday of September, 2006 stood at Rs. 1,74,866.16 crore forming 15.54 per cent of Net Bank Credit while that by the private sector banks at Rs. 32,178,35 crore forming 11.58 per cent of Net Bank Credit. The banks that are unable to fulfill their commitment towards agriculture lending or priority sector lending are required to contribute a stipulated amount to Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) maintained with NABARD for development of rural infrastrucute through State Governments, the quantum of which depends on the corpus announced by Government of India each year. In order to disincentivise banks for not fulfilling their stipulated target, the rate of interest on RIDF deposits is kept inversely proportional to the shortfall in target.

(e) Data Reporting System of Reserve Bank of India does not generate information in the manner asked for. However, State-wise, agricultural credit during the last three years is given in Statement (*See* below).

Statement

State-wise Ground Level Credit (GLC) disbursements under agriculture and allied activities

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Chandigarh	37245	90803	162231
2.	New Delhi	242367	388227	1307623
3.	Haryana	628620	864028	1084743
4.	Himachal Pradesh	38232	61581	95482
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	6619	11184	90545
6.	Punjab	914790	1279416	1547980
7.	Rajasthan	313996	517225	756234
	Northern Region	**2181869**	**3112464**	**5044838**
8.	Arunachal Pradesh	390	1257	1337
9.	Assam	19129	26724	66332
10.	Manipur	580	1923	5766
11.	Meghalaya	5184	2474	5657
12.	Mizoram	544	2019	2432
13.	Nagaland	742	1978	2402
14.	Tripura	3000	3817	8476
15.	Sikkim	425	541	1169
	North Eastern Region	**29994**	**40733**	**93571**
16.	Bihar	142172	181726	212458
17.	Jharkhand	21461	40739	50588
18.	Orissa	127778	198549	312919
19.	West Bengal	212944	302168	644134
20.	Andaman & Nicobar	385	587	1528
	Eastern Region	**504740**	**723769**	**1221627**

Sr. No.	Name of the State/UTs	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
21.	Madhya Pradesh	342935	529344	690396
22.	Chhattisgarh	52377	78740	123321
23.	Uttar Pradesh	810833	1042864	1405866
24.	Uttaranchal	42589	63232	93782
	Central Region	**1248734**	**1714180**	**2313365**
25.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	76	158
26.	Damand & Diu	0	5	40
27.	Gujarat	479822	660930	1110647
28.	Goa	3938	8008	13134
29.	Maharashtra	528487	742083	1493814
	Western Region	**1012247**	**1411102**	**2617793**
30.	Andhra Pradesh	1001424	1349050	2050124
31.	Karnataka	532600	728127	1291353
32.	Kerala	377502	571229	1032413
33.	Lakshadweep	78	62	115
34.	Pondichery	6970	12716	23521
35.	Tamil Nadu	695166	1020670	1948810
	Southern Region	**2613740**	**3681854**	**6346336**
	Other States		1224	4870
	TOTAL :	7591324	10785326	17642400
	Private Sector Banks	1023008	1626342	
	RIDF	83747	94124	405857
	Other Agencies		19279	
	Other Bonds		5867	300
	GRAND TOTAL :	8698079	12530937	18048557